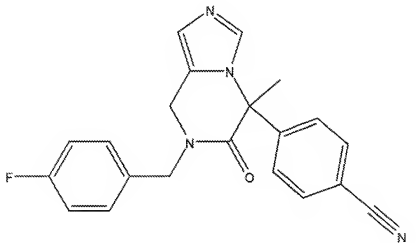


REMARKS

Claims 28 and 31-49 are pending. Claims 29 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of Applicants rights to pursue the cancelled subject matter in this or a subsequent application. Claims 28, 31 and 38 have been amended to cancel non-elected subject matter. No new matter has been introduced by the instant amendments.

An election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 has been required to the subject matter of Groups I-XXI, as those groups are defined in the Restriction Requirement on pages 2 and 3.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect, *without traverse*, the invention of Group II, claims 28-38 and 46-49, drawn to compounds of formula I in which m and n are zero. In response to the election of species, Applicants provisionally elect the following species to assist the Examiner in searching: 4-[7-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-5-methyl-6-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazin-5-yl]-benzonitrile, e.g., the compound of Example 85 on page 81 of the specification. The elected species has the structure:



Applicants expressly reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

Regarding the variables of formula I, the elected compound is where m = n = 0, X is oxygen, R_{1a} is alkyl and R_{1b} is aryl, R₂ is R₆(CHR₇)_p {R₆ is aryl, R₇ is hydrogen and p is 1}, and R₃, R₄ and R₅ are each hydrogen. Claims 28, 30-38 and 46-49 read on the elected species.


It is noted that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species.

Applicants request rejoinder of the method claims of commensurate scope to the composition of matter claims upon allowance of claims directed to the elected invention, e.g., Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the subject matter corresponding to Groups V, VIII, XI, XIV, XVII and XX upon allowance of the claims embodying the elected invention.

This communication is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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